



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

April 25, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your March 20 letter identifying your priorities in nuclear waste management, and your offer to work together on this national challenge.

President Trump's "America First" budget blueprint requested \$120 million to resume licensing activities for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and initiate a robust interim storage program. The importance of resuming the licensing process became even clearer during my recent tour of the Yucca Mountain site. A robust interim storage program should be part of the near term solution for consolidating spent fuel from shutdown reactor sites and reducing taxpayer liability. Still, I believe establishing a geologic repository is the best long-term solution for isolating spent fuel and high-level waste.

We owe the American people a long-term solution for the Nation's ever growing inventory of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste generated by our Nation's commercial nuclear and defense activities that is currently stored at numerous sites across the United States. I look forward to working with the Congress on moving forward on both near- and long-term steps to achieve progress.

Thank you for your commitment to solving our Nation's nuclear waste management issues. I believe that working together we can make important progress. Please contact me or Marty Dannenfelser, Deputy Assistant Secretary for House Affairs, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry

